Property – 1930

Alabama

Pike County Negro Is Large Taxpayer

TROY, ALA., Jan. 11.—(Special.)—Henry Knox, old negro resident of the Brundidge neighborhood, is one of the largest tax payers in the County. This was learned from tax officials at the Courthouse Saturday when Knox came in to pay and assess his taxes for the current year.

He owns 1,040 acres of good land near Brundidge besides some other property. According to his own statement he has accumulated what he has from hard work and there is no incumbrance whatever against any of his property and never has been.

Indiana.

Property - 1930

Sale of Villa Good Business

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 1[illegible] F. B. Ransom, general manager of the Mme. C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company, and the man who during the life of the late Mme. Walker, and since served as a business guide for her interests, explained Saturday in an interview with the Associated Negro Press, the motives which led the estate to dispose of the furnishings of Villa Lewaro, the magnificent home at Irvington Hudson which Mme. Wakler built.

Mr. Ransom had just returned from New York where he had been during the progress of the sale. He reaffirmed reports that the house would be sold now that the furnishings were disposed of.

"Villa Lewaro is to be sold, Mr. Ransom said, simply because it is good business to dispose of it." He pointed to a story in a prominent weekly which stated the reason for the sale was a $15,000 mortgage upon Lewaro.

"It is amazing to me that anyone should state that a $15,000 mortgage upon Lewaro.

"It is amazing to me that anyone should state that a $15,000 mortgage had anything to do with the sale of the furnishings or the property or indicate in a story that the sale was a forced one. The fact is no mortgage had anything to do with this sale."

"The Villa Lewaro", Mr. Ransome explained, "has stood for twelve years, eleven years since Madam Walker's death, unoccupied other than for brief weekend parties on the part of her daughter, Mme. A'Lelia Walker. The daughter has stated all through the years that she would not occupy this home, and she felt and we felt that it was foolish to have it stand there a liability, any longer.

"Lewaro was located in a section of the country where we had to be careful of upkeep and maintenance. In addition to help in the house an outside man was necessary. This exepense, together with the heavy taxes meant th t everything was going out and nothing coming in, while at the same time no one was getting any benefit or pleausre out of the home. We feit the Villa had served its purpose and that it was about time we liquidated what it represented in the way of assests.

"We plan to sell the Villa if we can get a good price. We don't intend to sacrifice it. If we sell it certain portions of the proceeds will go to charity in substantial compliance with the will of the late Mme. C J. Walker.

"Everbody knows, indeed the whole world knows, that the Villa as it stood was nothing but a liability. Madam Walker wanted it to stand for sometime as a monument to the memory of her mother, and it has stood for eleven years unoccupied. The value of the house and its furnishings was depreciating, and if we ever hoped to realize anything for charity or anyone else we must do it before complete deterioration."

In discussing the possible sale of the house on December 13, Mr. Ransom said that experts had advised that the best manner in which to sell property in New York was through auction. Benjamin Wise, the auctioneer, who had charge of the sale, sometime ago auctioned off the famous Astor Hotel.

"However, if we can get the right kind of buyer, we will not auction off the Villa," Mr. Ransom said. "We refuse to sacrifice the property. We are in no special hurry, but if we are able to get the right kind of price, we will sell".

Property - 1930

Kansas.

Famous Groves Potato Farm is Sold at Auction to Pythian Lodge For $61,000 to Satisfy Mortgage

Call
8-6-30
Kansas City, Mo

The famous Groves potato farm in the rich Kansas Kaw Valley country near Edwardsville, Kas., was sold at auction on the Wyandotte county court house steps Tuesday morning and was bought by the Knights of Pythias of Missouri for the sum of $61,000, which was the amount of a mortgage and various charges held by the Pythians. There were no other bidders.

Under the Kansas law, the Pythians cannot take possession for eighteen months and during that time the Groves family has the right to buy back the property if it can secure the necessary funds.

The Pythians were forced to take the step, they said, because nothing has been paid on the principal of a $50,000 loan made to the Groves family by the order, no interest has been paid for two years and taxes are delinquent for two years.

In a statement made three months ago, members of the Groves family blamed weather conditions and the conditions of the potato market for their failure to care for the loan. The farm is being operated by seven sons and a daughter of the late Junius G. Groves, who passed away in 1925. The elder Groves came to Kansas at the beginning of the century and founded his potato empire of more than 400 acres by working for forty cents a day. The 22-room brick mansion on the farm is famous for its hospitality, Booker T. Washington once having been a guest there.

Property - 1930

Kentucky

NEGRO WOMAN HEIR TO KY. MILLIONAIRE

LEXINGTON, Ky., Oct. 29—Mrs. Melinda Campbell, 58 years old, for thirty years the house keeper for R. W. Woodruff, wealthy eccentric bachelor, white, was named as the sole beneficiary in Woodruff's will which was filed in the Fayette county for probate this week following his death. The terms of the will, which is dated May 17, 1930, direct that all property both personal and real shall go to my servant Melinda Campbell to do with as she sees fit.

Woodruff came to the Blue Grass country from Virginia in the early 70's and began the development of a stock and tobacco plantation, which developed into one of the most valuable properties known in the district. He was a friend and partner of Col. E. R. Bradley, noted turf magnate, and ranked high in the social life of the Kentucky gentlemen. He had no close relatives, and had no dealings with the several second and third cousins who are now appearing to lay claim to a share of his estate.

Mrs. Campbell and her husband now dead, came into the employ of Woodruff more than thirty years ago. Mrs. Campbell became house keeper and general manager of the estate, exercising full authority in the absence of her employer. She interested him in several Negro charitable projects, to which he contributed generously during his life time. The Woodruff estate is valued at more than a million dollars, including several prize thoroughbred horses, a beautiful colonial mansion, and valuable art works which Woodruff collected on his many visits to Europe. The will was drawn by Ex-Congressman Foster, one of the state's leading lawyers, who was a close personal friend of Woodruff's and it is believed that it is action-proof, and will not be broken by the claimant heirs.

MILLION DOLLAR ESTATE GOES TO HOUSEKEEPER

Afro-American

LEXINGTON, Ky.—Death here last week when the will of R. W. Woodruff, white, wealthy bachelor, revealed that he left his entire estate of more than a million dollars to his housekeeper, Mrs. Melinda Campbell. 11-8-30

The document, which is dated May 17, 1930, directs that all the property, both personal and real, shall go to Mrs. Campbell "to do with as she sees fit."

Was Housekeeper

The late Mr. Woodruff lived in one of those old southern mansions which have been the background for many a romance, and for the past thirty years Mrs. Campbell, who is now 58, presided over the household with full authority. 11-8-30

In addition she became general manager of the estate and directed many of the large gifts to charities which the gentleman of Kentucky made during his lifetime.

Woodruff is said to have come to Kentucky in the 70's and began the development of his stock and tobacco plantation. As a man among Kentuckians, he ranked high in social life, living, however, as a confirmed bachelor so far as the world knew, until his death revealed the interest he had in his housekeeper whom the laws of the South would not have permitted him to marry.

He was a friend of Colonel E. R. Bradley, noted turf magnate, and had no dealing with the several distant relatives who have now come forward to claim a part of the estate.

Will, Action Proof

The will, drawn by Ex-Congressman Foster, one of the state's leading lawyers, and a close personal friend, is said to be action proof. It is not at all improbable that Foster, as well as Colonel Bradley knew of the romance which existed in the household of the rich bachelor.

Second Case

The Woodruff case is not the first to come to surface in the wills of rich southern gentlemen. In 1924, Colonel John T. Hughes, one of the wealthiest white farmers of central Kentucky died leaving the bulk of his estate to Mrs. Ella Davis, his housekeeper, her son who bore his name, and his valet.

The romance, freely discussed at that time, revealed that Hughes, who never married, had fallen in love with Mrs. Davis, but could not marry her under the written and unwritten laws of the South.

There are hundreds of cases written into the history of the Southland, it is said.

Thursday, November 13, 1930

NEGRO CHURCH HAS OIL WELL

Horse Cave, Ky., Nov. 11.—H. Z. Clark, drilling on the property of the Little Blue Spring Negro Church, near the Legrande school property in Hart County, has brought in an oil well for the Negro congregation. In an area of 100 acres around the Little Blue Springs school and church there are nine good producing wells in which the negroes own an iterest.—Courier-Journal.

Property - 1930

Maryland

White Man Wills Fortune to Woman

Negro World

A Tribute to Faithful Service and Constant Help Through Many Years

N.Y.A. 11-1-30

BALTIMORE, Md.—It is not often that white men publicly and as a matter of record reward the Negroes who have served them faithfully, at least not to the extent of leaving any considerable portion of their estate to such Negroes. The exception became known to have occurred here recently whn the last will and testament of Charles C. Herrell, secondhand furniture dealer, was filed for record in the Orphans' Court. By this will Harrell left his entire estate, reputed to be valued at several hundred thousand dollars, to Miss Asline Fletcher, who had been a faithful servant and helper to him through many years.

The daughters of the dead man, and Mrs. Marion Harrell Brown of Miss Pauline Harrell of Atlanta, Ga., Washington, D. C., have served notice through their attorney, Harry W. Nice, that they intend to contest the will. Both the attorney and the daughters expressed themselves as being outraged to the insult which their father had heaped upon them in leaving his vast estate to a Negro. Attorneys for Miss Fletcher, however, state that under the laws of Maryland a man may leave his property to whom he wishes and that there is not the possible chance of the will being broken.

Mississippi.

Property - 1930

Negro-Owned Oil Company Brings In Million Dollar Gas Spouter on Its Land Near Jackson, in Mississippi

Negro Age

11-29-30

Jackson, Miss.—Graves No. 1 well of the Pioneer Oil and Gas Company blew in a few days ago about a mile east of Jackson, making an estimated flow of from 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas daily, and is one of the big wells of the country. It is said by some that the value of the well is a million dollars. The Pioneer Company is about to close a deal for the sale of its gas to one of the big pipeline companies. The natural gas business is the most active big business in this country today.

This is the first time in American history that a well of this kind has been brought in by a company wholly owned by Negroes.

The company was organized less than three months ago and its success has been nothing short of phenomenal. It owns not only this well, but it is said to own quite a number of valuable leases in proven territory, on one of which, only about 500 feet from the present well, the company is planning to begin another well soon.

S. D. Redmond is president and chief sponsor, and H. E. Anderson, is secretary-treasurer.

The board of directors are: M. C. Collins, T. J. Huddleston, Drs. C. L. Barnes, A. M. Redmond, C. B. Christian, F. E. Pinson, and S. R. Redmond, W. L. Mhoon, Dr. R. L. Johnson, Dr. L. T. Miller, S. D. Redmond and M. E. Anderson.

Property - 1930

Missouri

Pythians Foreclose $60,000 Mortgage on Potato Empire

750-Acre Farm and 24-Room Brick Mansion Left by Junius Groves, Late "Potato King," to Go Under the Hammer.

KANSAS CITY, Missouri. (ANP)—The end of the great "potato empire" built by the late Junius G. Groves in the rich Kaw Valley country of Kansas, was foreshadowed Saturday with the opening of foreclosure proceedings against the estate in the Wyandotte County district court here.

The suit is a foreclosure on a mortgage of $60,000 held by the Knights of Pythias of Missouri and jurisdiction, of which A. W. Lloyd, of St Louis, is the grand chancellor.

Attorneys for the order set forth that not even the taxes and interest on the mortgage have been paid by the estate since the death of the potato king in 1925.

Started on 30 Cents a Day

J. G. Groves, the man who enjoyed and created the huge potato farm was born shortly after Fort Sumter was fired upon. Twelve years after the Civil War, Groves entered the Kaw Valley. He was looking for farm work and started working for white people at a wage of thirty cents a day.

After a bit, he started working potato land on shares. Soon he obtained enough to start for himself

He was born shortly after Fort Sumter was fired upon and came to Kansas twelve years after the Civil war. On the farm of a white man he did odd chores and then regular work at the wage of thirty cents a day.

By and by he worked on shares in potato crops and soon got a start for himself. From the day he had come west to Kansas he had dreamed of owning a great plantation such as he had heard his parents describe in the southland and gradually his dreams began to take form.

Farm of 400 Acres

Groves's good business judgment and his industry soon built the farm to its present size of 400 acres. He became known in the agricultural world from the Atlantic to the Pacific as the "Potato King of the Kaw." An article on him and his farm appeared in the American magazine.

When he died September 1, 1925, he left the most highly developed potato land in the Kaw valley and a 24-room brick and stone mansion that today would cost $100,000 to construct.

Few people who motor in and about the country do not know the huge mansion, trimmed in white stone, with its red tile roof, which stands on a knoll at the head of the valley, overlooking the broad acres which brought fame and fortune to the son of slave.

The home has served as a sort of "big house" for the cluster of cottages on the estate and it has always had its latch-string out for travelers, week-end parties and summer visitors. The Groves family is known far and near for its hospitality.

Two Bad Years

Groves left eight sons and two daughters, besides his widow, Mrs. Matilda Groves, most of whom are married and have families.

Walter P. Groves, co-executor with his mother, of the estate, said Tuesday that the farm was in its predicament because of two bad years, 1928 and 1929.

"We borrowed $50,000 after my fathers' death," he said, "to pay off a mortgage which he left on the place and then set about to pay our interest, reduce the principal and start a dairy farm on the hilly section of our land which is not adapted to raising potatoes.

"The administration of the estate was cleared up in 1927. We bought seed potatoes that year for the 1928 crop at a price of $2.65 a hundred pounds. Note that price.

35,000-Bushel Crop

"In 1928 we raised a bumper crop, loaded all our available acres in potatoes and dug a crop of 35,000 bushels.

"For this crop we got only thirty cents a hundred pounds although we had paid $2.65 a hundred pounds for seed alone. Prices hit the bottom and hurt every farmer in the valley. Many farmers could not afford to dig their potatoes at this price and let thousands of bushels rot in the ground. We dug ours because we do most of our own work and had no great outside labor cost.

$15,000 Loss

"On that 1928 crop we lost approximately $15,000. We could not pay interest, we could not pay taxes; we could hardly fed ourselves.

"The figures speak for themselves. In 1926 and 1927 we were getting $1.80, $1.90 and $2.00 per hundred pounds—all the way from $400 to $550 for a carload. In 1928 we got 30c a hundred pounds—from $100 to $200 a carload. That's the answer right there.

FORECLOSURE MOVE MAY END FAMOUS GROVES POTATO FARM ON KAW

Sons Explain Two Bad Years With Dirt Cheap Prices and Heavy Rains Hurt Business

A SUIT was filed Saturday in the Wyandotte county district court asking permission to foreclose on the J. G. Groves farm at Edwardsville Kansas.

The Knights of Pythias lodge of Missouri, of which A. W. Lloyd is grand chancellor, is bringing the suit seeking to satisfy a mortgage of $60,000. It is charged that no interest or taxes has been paid.

Started at 30c a Day

If the suit to foreclose is successful, it will mean the end of the "potato empire" built up by the late Junius G. Groves in the most fertile land in the rich Kaw valley country.

The story of Groves and his potato farm is the story of a man who took his bare hands and made Nature make his dreams come true.

Property-1930

Nebraska

SLAVE BECOMES a RICH RANCHER

Robert Anderson, Master of 2,000 Acres in Nebraska, Tells How His Owner's Wife Once Whipped Him and Bathed His Wounds with Salt

By IRMA ELLIS LEGGETT

(In the Omaha World-Herald)

OUT NEAR Nebraska's western boundary line a few miles north east of Hemingford, lives Robert Anderson, a Negro 87 years old, who looks more like a man of 57. He has a huge ranch which consists of more than two thousand acres of the best farm and pasture land in Box Butte county, and more than 1,700 acres of it is under cultivation.

Anderson lives in a splendid, modern 10-room house, recently constructed to supplant the original soddy. Here and there over his two thousand acres are other pretty little bungalows, put up for his renters and helpers. The ranch is farmed with the aid of modern combines, tractors, trucks and automobiles, which have replaced several hundred heads of live stock.

Sounds like a fine place, you say. It is, but listen to this:

Robert Anderson was born a slave and at the age of 21 went to join the armies of the north to fight for freedom for all blacks. He was without a possession in the world except what he had on his back.

When 38 years old he obtained three months' schooling, and it is all he has had.

Swindled several times out of toil earned savings by dishonest whites as he neared what is usually called middle age, he still had nothing but a timber claim to his name—not a dollar to work with, or to buy the needed seed and provision and tools. Yet today he is a comparatively wealthy man and has helped numberless other people of his race into a more comfortable position.

His Word as Good as Note.

Not only has Anderson reached a period of financial ease, where he can rest a little and enjoy the life that has treated him so harshly, but he has made those who have dealt with him realize that his business integrity is of the highest. These people honor and respect him; his word is as good as another's note. He has won numberless friends all over his half of the state. And these westerners are often his guests, for the Anderson home is a hospitable one.

Anderson went his way alone until 1922, when on a trip to the south he decided he needed a companion, and chose a highly educated young colored woman, Miss Daisy Graham of Forest City, Ark., to share his acres and make a pleasant home for his old age. So on March 19, 1922, they were married, and since then Mrs. Anderson has relieved her husband of many of the burdens of such a vast domain.

Andersons's fine farm is about 11 miles north and west from Hemingford and about three miles from the first county seat of Box Butte, a hamlet which was called Nonpareil, and which went the way of many other inland towns when the railroad decided not to run through it.

Nonpareil, however, is a convenient siding for the shipments of grain and live stock Anderson now makes. Perhaps as he oversees them he thinks back to the time before there was a Nonpareil, for he went out to what is now Box Butte county before there was a town or railroad in it in the year 1884. Four years later, what is now called Alliance, the one-time village of Grand Lake, took form about 30 miles to the southeast of the Anderson home.

A Tough Beginning.

Having homesteaded in Butler county in 1870 and failed, in order to get a new start it was necessary to take out a pre-emption and timber claim, and Anderson had lots of trouble getting the necessary trees to make his timber a fact. His richer neighbors bought trees and hired men to set them out, but he had no money. However, by hauling in a few from the Pine Ridge county, when given a few leftovers and weaklings by others who were better off, and by hiring out to set trees on other claims, Anderson managed to earn some and to get his tree claim set out.

Everything about his place has been earned. The first shelter was a sod house, made from broad strips of prairie sod, so full of "black root" that the roaring western winds couldn't whip the little shanty to pieces. Of course, he made this house himself, and it still stands on the farm, dwarfed by the modern barns and cribs and hog houses, not to mention the home Anderson now lives in.

A lot of hard work went into the ranch. Without any capital to run on, those early days were often heartbreaking. Whenever seed or provisions or tools were needed there was nothing for it but to hire out to someone else and do day labor, leaving the little estate to look after itself.

Borrowing at 3 Per Cent

For about three years Anderson cooked for a construction gang working on the new Burlington railroad, saving every dime and managing to scrap together about $1,600. This was loaned to a supposedly responsible person who shortly skipped the country. Similar things happened other times.

The 640 acres had to be "improved," for the claim wouldn't really be his until this was done.

So Anderson tried and tried, and finally succeeded in borrowing, at 3 per cent interest, which seemed huge to him, enough money to buy a yoke of oxen and a plow. This was a real start, and early and late the homesteader worked to raise a little grain and garden stuff.

Ten years later the land was clear, and a few head of horses and a solitary cow embellished the little kingdom Shrubbery, mostly such useful kinds as raspberries, gooseberries and blackberries, and such little fruit trees as plums, apples and cherries began to flourish.

Soon a little money went in the bank, a little more and always a little more. Anderson began to rent out part of his land and this brought in revenue, too. As he could he bought more land. He decided that in the dull time of the year he might be able to leave home safely and go traveling, which had always been one of his ambitions. He began modestly and enjoyed it so much that he continued, until now he has been in nearly every state in the union and also Cuba and Mexico, and still expects to be able to take more trips.

Nowadays he can well afford such jaunts. In 1928 he marketed over 20 thousand bushels of wheat, some of which made a yield of better than 54 bushes to the acre. Formerly he sold large quantities of live stock, getting four thousand dollars from cattle alone in 1928. Now, however, there are only 14 horses and mules on the place, 55 hogs and 10 head of cattle. He had one thousand acres of winter wheat this past summer, having added another combine and three more tractors to his equipment the previous summer. One quarter section yielded six thousand dollars' worth of wheat in 1928.

Anderson is proud of his achievements, and more than willing to help others. It is in the hope that others of his race may be inspired to be industrious, that he wants his life story to become known.

His Parents Valued as Slaves

Born a slave in Kentucky near the tiny village of Haskingsville, about eight or nine miles from Greensburg, he has many memories of the way slaves had to live, a family or more to a room, "not as well cared for as horses." His mother was the cook for the "master's" family, and his father a valued slave of a neighboring plantation owner. This meant that his parents were considered the best class of slaves, were more intelligent than many, and consequently were worth more money.

The slaves took the name of their owner. The master's name was Colonel Robert Ball, so Ball was the family name. The father belonged to a man named Anderson and was called "Anderson's Bill" or Bill Anderson. When enlisting for service Robert Anderson used the name Robert Ball, and in later years changed to his father's name. This caused him some trouble in getting his government papers fixed out correctly. He and his brother and sisters were full blooded Negroes, and proud of it, for many of those about them were not.

When the youngest child was about 3, the mother was sold down the river, and they never saw her again. A girl of 14, the oldest of the children, had to take charge of the spinning and weaving and making of clothes as well as of the kitchen and the meals. Yet she still found time to take care of her younger brothers and sisters.

Tells of Mistress' Cruelty

Colonel Ball himself was very kind to his slaves, but as the place was large and he was obliged to travel about his third wife and the overseers were generally in charge. Some of the overseers were not cruel but most of them were. The "missus" had taken a dislike to little Robert and often treated him harshly. He got many beatings, though never from his master. On one occasion, because he had not finished his work fast enough to suit her, the mistress herself took a horsewhip to him. Naked, his body a mass of cuts and blood, she beat him until she was so exhausted that she had to sit down to continue, and then changed off from one hand to the other as her arms tired. He screamed and screamed and at last lost consciousness, but still she beat him. Finally the boy lay on the floor, blood running everywhere. The "missus" left and came back with pepper. She rubbed this into the cuts, and still was not satisfied, he avers.

So she fixed a tub of hot water until it was muddy with salt and bathed his wounds in this. If the other was torture, he says, this was a million times worse. Again he fainted, but even when he dropped over senseless she was not through. Wrapping him in a sheet soaked in salt water, the vengeful woman kicked him into a corner where he lay for hours. It took months for the caked sores to heal. There were other whippings but this was the worst. His body is knotted with the scars such things left.

Fought Against the Indians.

At length he caught the fever to go to war. It was no wonder. He was 21, had worked since before he could remember, and hadn't a penny to show for it.

He joined a colored company of infantry, which was drilled for about six months. The troop was just ready for actual fighting when the war was declared over. But for two years and eight months after that Anderson saw service against the Indians on the plains, and he can tell many tales of exciting skirmishes.

But today, master of many fertile and beautiful acres, with a fine home, Anderson would rather consider the present and future than the past. His wife is a great help to him, running the ranch more than the house, where she often leaves a couple of girls in charge. As Mrs. Anderson is a college graduate and taught school for several years, she is efficient and capable at directing work about the ranch, and Anderson gets a little chance to rest at last. He has very generously shown his appreciation of her efforts by helping her family in various ways. A younger sister is now in high school in Hemingford, and after that will embark on a law course. Two brothers of Mrs. Anderson have been so much help and so dependable about the big place that he has given them each a

quarter section. And not far from his home is a nice little cottage arranged for Mrs. Anderson's mother.

The Andersons' home is comfortable and well furnished. They have a fine piano and two automobiles. Just now a fine new potato cellar is being constructed. It will be 30 by 80 feet, and fixed so trucks can go in one end and out the other. The capacity will be nine thousand bushels. As the potato crop looks very good, and Anderson has 130 acres of "spuds," the cellar will be well tried out.

Since an attack of pneumonia about a year ago last spring, Anderson isn't in quite as robust health as usual. He is a staunch Methodist and derives much comfort from his religion.

HOLD WHITE YOUTH FOR SLAYING COLORED BOY

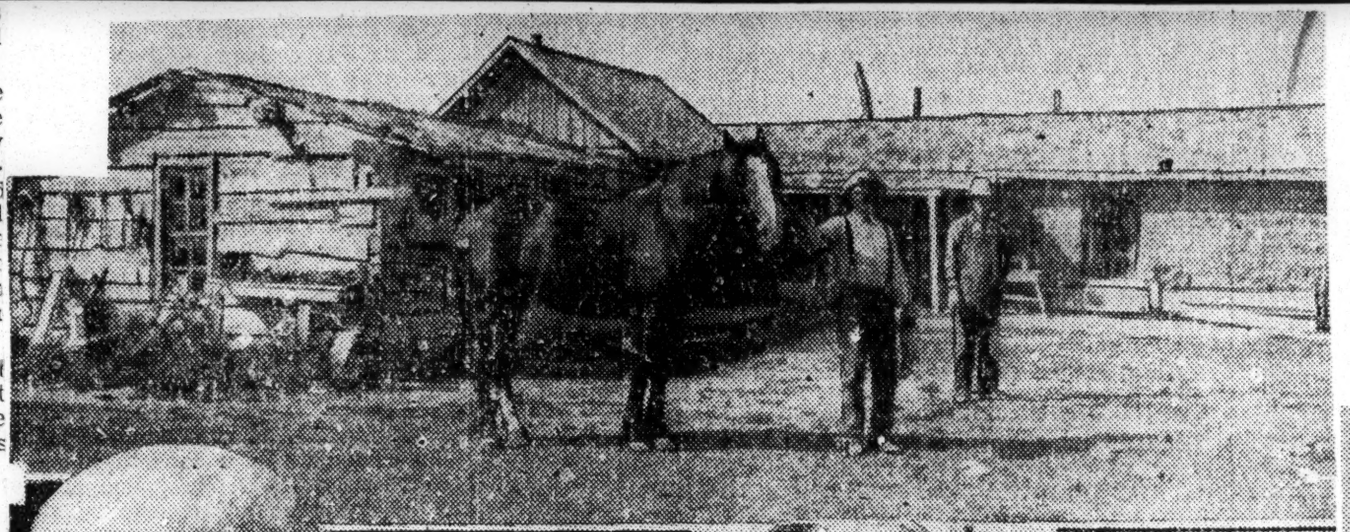
SANFORD, N. C.—(ANP)—Melvin Gautier, 14-year-old white youth, was held without bond following the coroner's investigation of the killing of Ernest Covington, a colored youth, at Lee County Fair grounds here, Monday evening.

When arrested, the white boy stated that earlier in the day, Covington and a companion had attacked him and had driven him from the grounds. When he saw Covington, Monday evening, he thought that the latter would again attack him, so he took his knife from his pocket and opened it to protect himself. He then stated that Covington, who is slightly taller than the white boy, saw him, and made for him, declaring, "Didn't I tell you to keep out of my way," and to defend himself he stabbed the colored lad.

Eye-witnesses, however, testified that Covington was not the aggressor, but when accosted by Gautier was busily engaged enjoying himself. Gautier ran up to him and stabbed him in the heart. Covington fell to the ground, where he was picked up by a witness and rushed to the hospital. He never regained consciousness.

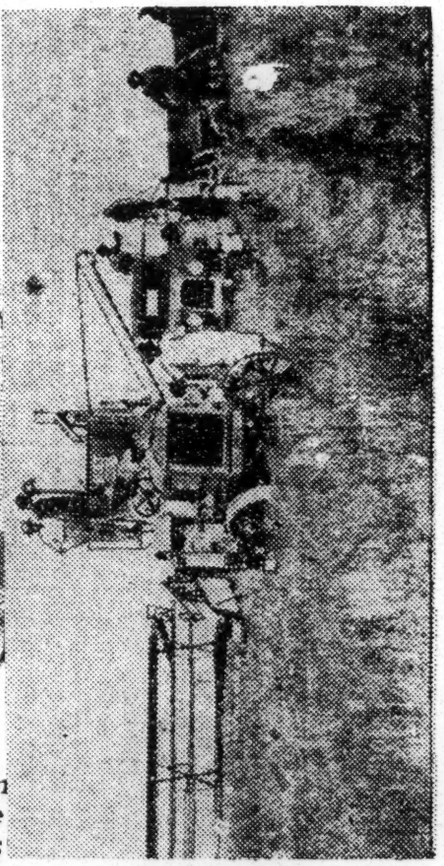
Following the stabbing, which cast a pall over the fair for that afternoon and evening, and aroused fear of interracial trouble, Gautier escaped, but was arrested a few hours later at his home in Greenwood.

Fox films now has fifty-two featured players and twenty-three directors under contract. Metro has eighty-four writers.

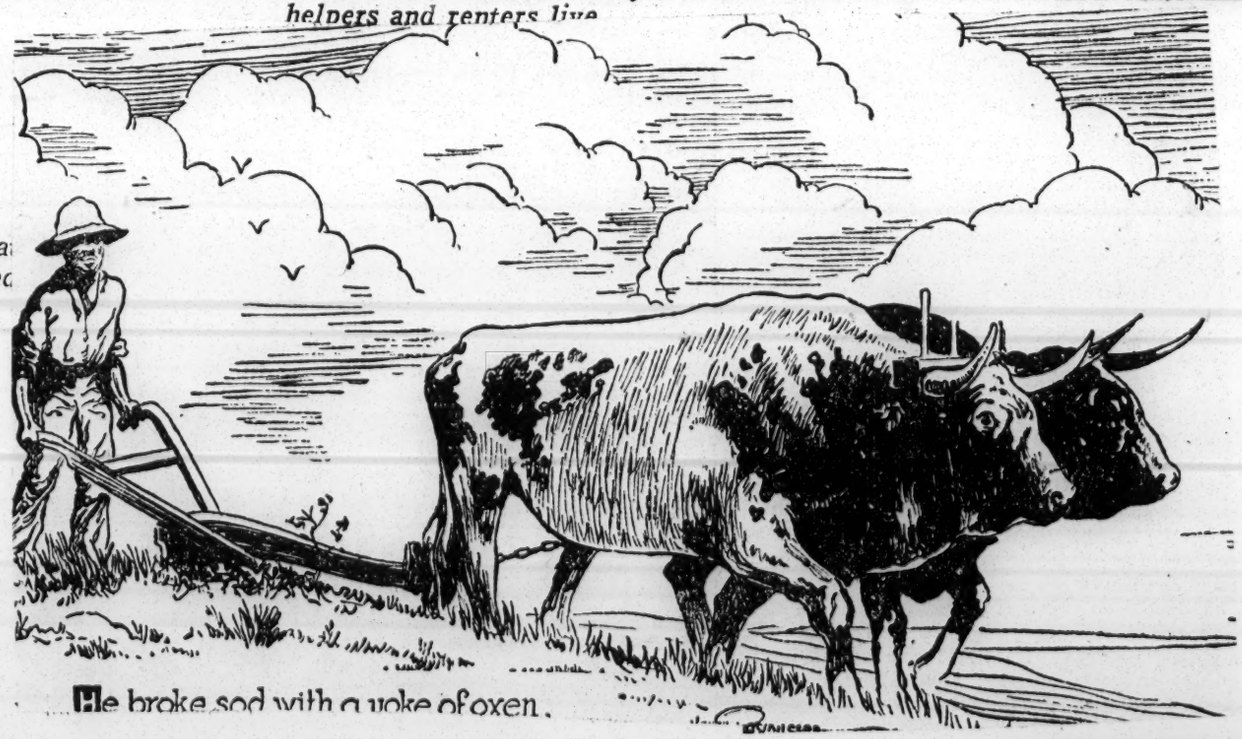


Robert Anderson . . . hopes that others of his race may be inspired by the story of his career

Anderson's first home on his ranch, and his latest, a modern, 10-room house, are shown above. . . . There are other comfortable homes here and there over this two thousand acres nowadays, too, in which his helpers and renters live



A scene on the ranch of the man who once was a slave. . . . combines, tractors, trucks and autos have replaced several hundred head of live stock.



He broke sod with a yoke of oxen.

quarter section. And not far from his home is a nice little cottage arranged for Mrs. Anderson's mother.

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SANFORD, N. C.—(ANP)—Melvin Gautier, 14-year-old white youth, was held without bond following the coroner's investigation of the killing of Ernest Covington, a colored youth, at Lee County Fair grounds here, Monday evening.

When arrested, the white boy stated that earlier in the day, Covington and a companion had attacked him and had driven him from the grounds. When he saw Covington, Monday evening, he thought that the latter would again attack him, so he took his knife from his pocket and opened it to protect himself. He then stated that Covington, who is slightly taller than the white boy, saw him, and made for him, declaring, "Didn't I tell you to keep out of my way," and to defend himself he stabbed the colored lad.

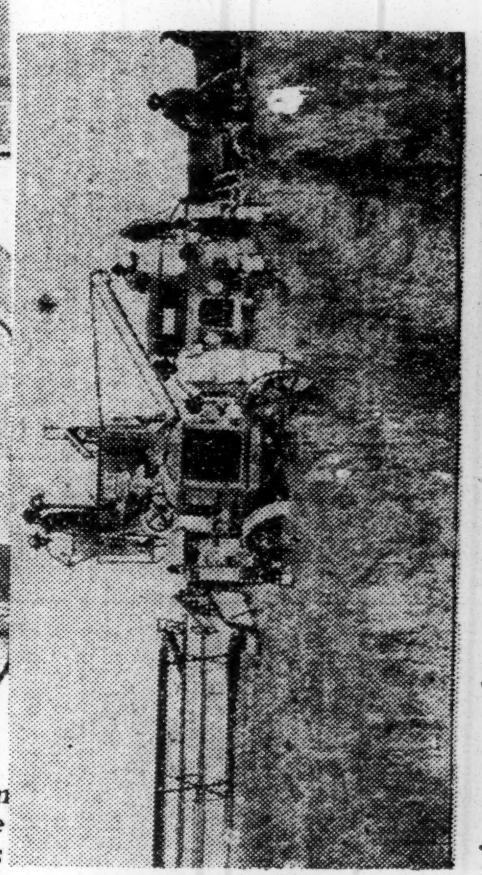
Eye-witnesses, however, testified that Covington was not the aggressor, but when accosted by Gautier was busily engaged enjoying himself. Gautier ran up to him and stabbed him in the heart. Covington fell to the ground, where he was picked up by a witness and rushed to the hospital. He never regained consciousness.

Following the stabbing, which cast a pall over the fair for that afternoon and evening, and aroused fear of interracial trouble, Gautier escaped, but was arrested a few hours later at his home in Greenwood.

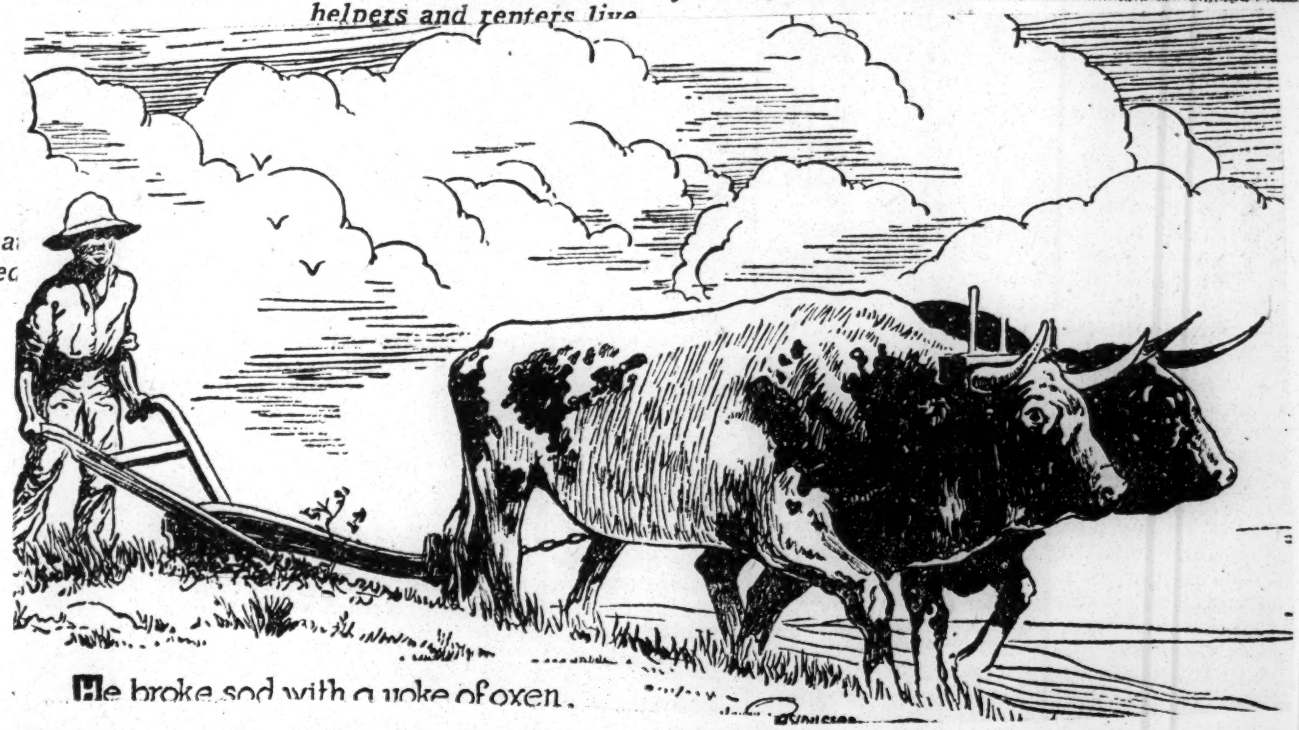
Fox films now has fifty-two featured players and twenty-three directors under contract. Metro has eighty-four writers.

Anderson's first home on his ranch, and his latest, a modern, 10-room house, are shown above. . . . There are other comfortable homes here and there over this two thousand acres nowadays, too, in which his helpers and renters live.

Robert Anderson . . . hopes that others of his race may be inspired by the story of his career.



A scene on the ranch of the man who once was a slave. . . . combines, tractors, trucks and autos have replaced several hundred head of live stock.



He broke sod with a yoke of oxen.

Property - 1930

New Jersey

A Wise Gift

THERE is something commendable in the way John Underhill, a candy merchant of Mays Landing, N. J., remembered before his death the children who over a period of twenty-five years had spent their pennies with him.

Mr. Underhill, who happened to be a Negro, left the $100,000 he had amassed to the children from whom he had derived it, directing that it be used to purchase equipment for the local high school gymnasium and improvements for the public park. One can easily think of hundreds of other ways Mr. Underhill might have disposed of his savings. Many ardent race enthusiasts will contend that he should have left it for the exclusive benefit of the race group to which he belonged. And it is desirable that a people who are the constant objects of philanthropy should sometimes be on the giving end.

But it is probably as significant that he thought first of those who had made his wealth possible. Little children during a quarter of a century had spent their pennies at his store. Some of them had advanced to high school. Some had taken their places in the world. Any benefit to the town park and the high school was bound to be a benefit to most of them.

It was a type of sentiment that transcends race and creed. It might have helped the race more if Mr. Underhill had bequeathed his earnings to some deserving Negro institution or organization. But the spirit of his gift has a universal appeal, arousing in all men everywhere a deep feeling of commendation.

ROCK ISLAND, ILL.
ARGUS

AUG 8 - 1930

A Negro Benefactor.

For a long period of time John Underhill was the only negro resident of Mays Landing, New Jersey.

Near the high school he operated a little store with boys and girls as his best customers. The people of the town were kind to John and he reciprocated that feeling. John was thrifty and saved his pennies—most of the cash he received was in pennies, nickels and dimes.

When John died recently everybody was sorry. But the people of Mays Landings were very much surprised as well as deeply touched when it was found that John had bequeathed his personal estate valued at $70,000 to the town for the improvement of its park and to purchase needed equipment for the high school gymnasium. Boys and girls had been his patrons and he wanted them to be the beneficiaries of what he had accumulated.

John Underhill was a mighty fine citizen. His name will always be mentioned with honor in Mays Landing.

BRONX HOME NEWS

AUG 5 - 1930

Colored Storekeeper Leaves Fortune for Children

An estate of approximately $100,000 that was amassed by a colored storekeeper at Mays Landing will, under the terms of his will, be used for the benefit of children, the principal patrons of his small store, which was located a block from the public school. The money will be used for a school gymnasium, improvement and upkeep of the town park.

Negro Bequeaths $100,000 to Village

8-5-30

MAYS LANDING, N. J., Aug. 4.—(AP)—John Underhill, negro storekeeper, has returned in the form of a $100,000 bequest the pennies that his child customers spent with him for a quarter of a century.

Although Underhill died in October, the terms of his will were not made known until today. It provides that an estate amounting to $71,390, exclusive of real estate, shall be devoted to improvement of the town park and to equipment of the high school gymnasium.

Underhill came here more than 25 years ago and for many years was the town's only negro resident. He first became a barber and later opened a store near the high school. He was universally liked for his philanthropies and when he died citizens erected a monument over his grave. Tablets will be placed in the park and gymnasium in recognition of his gifts.

Property - 1930

New York

COLORED WOMAN LEAVES ESTATE TO WHITE MAN

age

Rosa Reddick, Who Died In 1929, Leaves Residue to A. A. Watts

1-1-30

Attorney Rufus L. Perry of 375 Fulton street has been retained by Dr. Thomas Lowrie of Miami, Fla., and other next of kin of the late Miss Rosa Reddick, to contest her will.

N. Y.

Miss Reddick died in 1929 and according to the will, "all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate I give, device and bequeath to my friend, Albert A. Watts."

Watts is a white man, residing at 110 Cambridge place, and is manager of a local white real estate firm. Miss Reddick also appointed Watts as executor of the estate. The residue of the estate is estimated as being over $15,000

Case Before Surrogate.

The case came up before Surrogate George A. Wingate on Wednesday, January 22, and has been adjourned until February 3. Miss Reddick, who was a well-known churchwoman, lived at 412 Cumberland street, which she owned, for a number of years.

In her will she directed the executor to pay all of her just debts. She also directed that he sell all of the real estate that she owned in North Carolina, and buy a place of burial in Brooklyn with the proceeds for her friends, George Chase and his wife, Jennie Chase, and herself.

Friends Get Bequests.

A suitable monument is to be erected, the cost and expense of such plot and monument to be left to the discretion of the executor; and the cemetery corporation is to be paid a sum for the perpetual care and maintenance of the plot.

The property at Flushing Lawns is to be sold and from this money Ruth Cave is to get $100, Paulette Forqueran, $100, and the balance divided equally between Mary Mills of 398 Cumberland street; Mrs Blanche Palmer of 190 Prince street; Mrs. Carrie Jones, and Isaiah Jones of 412 Cumberland steret.

The executor is directed to sell the house at 412 Cumberland street and from the proceeds pay Flee Street A. M. E. Zion Church $1,000 Others to receive $1,000 from the sale of this property are John Patterson of 522 Jefferson avenue, Jennie Chase and Carrie Jones. The remainder goes to Mrs. Palmer.

All the rest goes to Mr. Watts The will was drawn July 29, 1929 The witnesses were Fannie Jordan of 425 Gates avenue; Berdelia Dugger, 412 Cumberland street and Lettie Cooper, 412 Cumberland street.

NEW YORK WORLD

MAR 2 - 1930

HOW MUCH WE ARE WORTH

Estimates of national wealth are necessarily subject to a wide margin of error, but as rough approximations they are of interest to those who do not abhor every form of statistics, and this interest is increased when the estimates are made by the same methods at regular intervals so as to afford some idea of the increase in our material welfare. The latest data of this sort come from the National Industrial Conference Board, which computes the national wealth of the United States in 1928 at 360 billions. The census estimate for 1922 was 320 billions. This would make the average per-capita wealth of this country $3,000 in 1928, compared with $2,919 in 1922. Such a slight gain in the six-year period does not conform with the prevalent impression that these years were characterized by record-breaking prosperity, and the accuracy of the figures will surely be challenged.

It will be a surprise to many people to learn that the per-capita wealth according to States is not highest in the highly industrialized States of the East but in the relatively undeveloped States of the Far West. Nevada leads all the States in this respect with a per capita of $7,338, or roughly double that of New York. South Dakota, Montana, Oregon and Nebraska, though regarded as regions of agricultural depression, nevertheless rank higher in per-capita wealth than Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Illinois. The reason for this is to be found in the large land holdings of the producers in the sparsely populated States of the West. In the thinly populated States of the South, however, the per-capita wealth is the lowest in the country. This is due to the large Negro population, which as yet has acquired a relatively small amount of property and thus brings down the average for that section.

BRITISH PASSPORT FEES TO STAND

No one denies that the whole passport system, as a survival of the war, is a cause of annoyance to travelers. Up to 1914, except in the case of a few countries, it had fallen into disuse. If this more or less unnecessary nuisance is not abated, it is only because of objections to its removal based on false expediency.

When Foreign Secretary Henderson tells the House of Commons, for instance, that the $10 fee for passport visas will not be done away with in Great Britain, he treats it as a question of revenue. Yet most of the coun ies of Europe have abolished this fee, and others, as France, reduced it to a nominal figure.

Since tourist travel from this side of the Atlantic counts for so much in England, it might seem plain business sense not to put obstructions in its way. England's neighbors beyond the Channel have taken this wiser course. It may well follow that British interests which profit by the passage of tens of thousands of American tourists every summer should be the first to protest against their government's policy, which inevitably works to their disadvantage.

Costly Home of Mme. Walker At Irvington For Sale

new york age

1-19-30

New York, N.Y.

Tarrytown, N. Y.—Residents of this and adjoining towns in Westchester County were surprised last week to see a sign on lawn of the expensive country home of Mme. A'Lelia Walker, announcing the property was for sale.

The house has not been occupied, except for weekends, this summer, and reports have it that the expense of maintaining it have become so great the owner decided to give it up.

Located on the state highway and commanding a beautiful view of the Hudson River, the house is one of the show places of Irvington—on—the—Hudson. It was built about twelve years ago by the late Mme. C. J. Walker, from plans by Vertner Tandy, Harlem's leading colored architect.

Villa Lewaro's Most Striking Contrast.

ABOUT the most striking contrast that can be drawn from the sale at public auction of the estate of the late Madam C. J. Walker, at Irvington-on-Hudson, is the fact that had Madam Walker been born a few years earlier, it would not have been impossible for her to have been bought and sold at public auction in a manner not so much different to that used to dispose of her effects. Madam Walker was born in 1867; Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. She missed the old slavery.

Sixty-seven years after her birth descendants of the race that once held her race in slavery are found rummaging about her castle in search of the art works, rare tapestries, rugs and period furniture that this near-slave-born woman accumulated in the fifty-two-year-span of her life.

Irvington-on-Hudson

But what a long life Madam Walker crowded into these fifty-two years: Orphaned at the age of seven; married at the age of fourteen; left a widow at twenty; migration from the Mississippi delta; worked as an humble washerwoman; embarkation upon a business career with no assets except her ambition and imagination; the massing of an estate variously estimated at the time of her death of between one and two million dollars.

12-3-30

Riches, though, did not turn Madam Walker's head a bit; until her death she remained the same lovable, loyal, simple-souled, noble-hearted woman she had been during her less fortunate years of life. She did not build Villa Lewaro to satisfy her own vanity so much as to establish a monument to Negro womanhood. Soon after her mansion was completed Madam Walker passed on, but her monument lingered on in brick, stone and mortar; in the beautiful creations with which she had surrounded herself.

new york, n.y.

Piece by piece these beautiful things are leaving Villa Lewaro for other abodes. The building itself may be demolished before long; but the indomitable spirit of Madam Walker will live on in each brick, in each block of stone, and in everything she loved at Villa Lewaro.

Eeleven years after her demise Madam Walker's white neighbors, who resented her presence in the quiet Westchester town, are found bidding against each other at public auction for what they think are only her material treasures—bargain hunters in quest of bargains—but with each fall of the auctioneer's hammer the spirit of this woman, also part and parcel of the bargain, passes into new households where she would not have been welcomed in life.

Villa Lewaro's $350,000 Furnishings to go at Auction

Afro-American
11-29-30
Baltimore, Md

The late Madam C. J. Walker's home overlooking the Hudson River at Irvington, New York, the art treasures of which will go on public sale, Friday.

VILLA WITH ITS FURNISHINGS COST $500,000

Afro-American
11-29-30
Baltimore, Md

Marble Walls Lined with Tapestry and Costly Ivory Statues

$25,000 ORGAN

Piano Covered with 24-Carat Gold.

IRVINGTON - ON - HUDSON, N.Y.—Auctioneers are listing the furnishings of Villa Lewaro, the home of Mme A'Lelia Walker Robinson Kennedy, daughter of the late Mme. C. J. Walker, and the sale will be held Friday of this week.

Visitors inspected the art treasures Wednesday and Thursday.

Since she is to no longer occupy the villa as a home and because it has served its purpose as a show place, Mme. Kennedy came to the decision to sell it. A full retinue of servants were maintained and the upkeep was expensive.

Worth $500,000

The villa Lewaro was erected and furnished at a cost of approximately $400,000. The cost of the ground brought the total cost up to a half million dollars. Both house and furnishings are to be sold.

Villa Lewaro has columns, balconies, trellises, porches, and cupolas. It faces Broadway and is approached by a circular drive built by Mme. Walker at a cost of $25,000, through gates bearing its scrolled name.

Behind it, facing the Hudson, there is a sunken garden, a terrace, garage and a six-room apartment for servants, a fountain, small gymnasium, and outdoor swimming pool. The Albany boat often played its searchlight upon the estate and the community regarded it as Westchester's most famous sight.

The walls of the hallway are lined with hand-made tapestries, bronze and ivory statuettes and a large figure of a jaguar springing at a horse. Marble stairs lead from one end to the second floor and the entrance to the drawing room is at the other end. Various other rooms for dining, breakfasting and the like open from the far side.

Gold Leaf Piano

In the drawing room there is a piano with a 24-carat gold-leaf finish. Opposite it is a phonograph also covered with gold-leaf. A famous organ, said to have cost $25,000, is installed in the wall with an outlet in the drawing room, another in the hall and a third on the stairway. It can play music automatically from rolls.

Valuable Ivory Collections

Mrs. Walker apparently had a great love for ivory for there are many statues of various kinds about the rooms, the most of them very valuable, in silver and ivory. There are two large cases also filled with figures carved from it.

There is a large French clock, a French desk, a model of a galley made from sixteenth century English silver and around the tops of the walls are panels done in the garden manner of Watteau. There is a lize-size figure of a boy listening to a shell, facing the window.

The Dining Room

The dining room is in the English Heppelwhite manner, in distinction to the drawing room's French. A $4,000 tapestry with the title, "The Boar at Bay," hangs from one wall. There are smaller paintings, and glass cabinets containing sterling silver tea sets.

The library contains two or three bookcases. There is a collection of books, with fine leather bindings, by Hawthorne, Cooper, Longfellow, Dickens, Lowell, Mark Twain, and other masters. There is a rare copy of "Book of the Opera," of which it is thought only fifty sets were made and there is also a complete "Memoirs of Casanova."

Contents of Mme. Walker's Room Not to be Sold

Upstairs are the sleeping rooms, each with adjoining bath. The contents of Mme. Walker's own room with its canopy of red over the bed, will not be sold.

The reception room on this floor has a silken Persian rug, paintings and more silver and ivory decorations.

On the third floor is the billard room, in English style, with its equipment made to order and back of it is a den with a player piano controlled by a switch set among the lights.

Named by Caruso

The name, Lewaro, was made from the name, Lelia Walker Robinson, Madam Walker's daughter, a combination suggested by Caruso. On the front lawn is a $10,000 prayer tree imported from Japan.

Property - 1930

North Carolina.

R.J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CORP. EMPLOYS 25,000

Afro American

Over Half Entire Population in City's Biggest Plant 1/18-30

FIND MILLIONAIRE

Baltimore

Winston-Salem Realtor Penniless 30 Yrs. Ago

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.—As soon as the itinerant alights from his train in this city he becomes impressed because his eyes fall upon the finest building in the South — the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's 23-story plant that covers a space from Main to Church Street and three-fourths of a block from Fourth to Fifth Street.

The first question you ask yourself is how will I get to see the inside of this famous structure that is North Carolina's pride?

Welcome at the Reynolds Plant

The color of your skin does not matter when you enter the R. J. Reynolds building. It was my good fortune to meet Mr. W. J. Fix, head of the industrial department, on entering the door. Immediately an engagement was made for me to return that I might get any information I wanted. On filling the engagement with Mr. Fix and those whom I were to see, the first thing I was told was of the cordial relations which existed between the two races.

Next in line I was ushered to the clinic where x-rays and surgical instruments of every description met my eyes. I was informed that all employees get free dental and medical service. Tubercular cases are given the best of attention and typhoid serums are injected into all employees who desire it as a safeguard.

Y.M.C.A. Coming

One of the big things that is in the making, is a colored Y.M.C.A. The Rosenwald fund is to give twenty-five thousand and the Reynolds company and leading white philanthropists are to help build the building which is to cost two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

Chamber of Commerce Gives Welcome

Mr. Fix, my newly-made acquaintance, was not satisfied with my knowing of the philanthropy of the R. J Reynolds company. He wanted me to meet and know the secretary of the chamber of commerce, Mr. William T. Ritter, who gave me a cordial welcome.

Mr. Ritter told me that the plan used by the Harmon award committee was also used by Winston-Salem.

Professor R. C. Haberkern, who received the 1929 award, is president of the Memorial Industrial School which was built in honor of his achievements, at a cost of approximately one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars.

The farm is the gift of Mr. W. N. Reynolds, the baby cottage the gift of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Gray; the girls' cottage the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Bowman Gray; the boys' cottage the gift of the children of the late R. J. Reynolds—Richard Smith, Misses Mary and Nancy Reynolds, and an additional gift has been made by Mr. W. N. Reynolds for equipment for the power plant. The late J. M. Rogers and Robert Critz both left legacies for the school.

Reynolds Insurance Plan

Colored employees are insured by the company plan in the Equitable Life Assurance Society, which gives them protection when physically incapacitated.

Negroes Own Stock in Company

Many of the employees of the R. J. Reynolds company own stock in this big concern. Stock is sold them for the purpose of teaching them to save and as a protection in old age.

Winston-Salem's Colored Population

The city has a population of forty thousand Negroes, of whom more than twenty-five thousand are employed by the R. J. Reynolds company and other factories. The white press is exceedingly fair to the colored citizens of Winston-Salem. It was my good fortune to meet the entire staff of the Journal through Mr. H. A. Wiseman, race member of the staff. Much space was given the Afro-American Friday morning relative to the work done by the race.

Winston-Salem's Millionnaire

Winston-Salem's whites will tell you that not only do they have white millionaires, the city has a colored millionaire in Charles H. Jones, the realtor. The financial status of Mr. Jones was verified by one of the staff of the Journal and several men at the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company who rated hm as a millionaire.

How Mr. Jones Began

Mr. Jones came to Winston-Salem thirty years ago from Wake County, motherless, fatherless and penniless. He worked night and day until he saved sixteen dollars and opened a grocery store. Night after night he slept on the counter of his store.

His holdings today are said to be up to the million dollar mark. His first purchase of real estate was a half of block from a white man who sold him the property for thirteen thousand five hundred dollars, without one penny down. A deed of trust was secured for twenty thousand by which to improve the property for rental purposes.

This was his beginning of success. Today Mr. Jones owns one building one hundred feet from the Reynolds building that he has a standing offer of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for. Modest his name is in no who's who and his photograph in no newspapers.

Owns 180 Houses

He owns one hundred and eighty dwellings, ninety per cent of them modern, two gas stations, five farms in North Carolina, a four hundred and fifty-five acre tract of land in Cumberland County, Virginia, a half interest in the leading colored theatre, a half interest in a bakery, stock in a majority of large colored concerns doing business throughout county, and valuable stock in many white enterprises.

It is just as common to hear one come into the office of Mr. Jones and discuss the borrowing of one thousand to five thousand dollars on real estate, as it is to hear one walk to a soda counter and ask for a soft drink.

Mr. Jones says that too many of our race trust in luck and good fortune, yet he has found that hard work is the basis of all success. He declared that the only real pleasure he gets out of life is doing something for some one else.

Many Wealthy Negroes

There are many wealthy Negroes among the professional and business people of Winston-Salem. Colored people of Winston-Salem are engaged in every type of business that is conceivable.

Afro American

A Substantial Bank

Among the financial enterprises doing a lucrative business is the Forsyth Savings and Trust Company, whose directors are some of the most outstanding citizens of the State.

Negroes Operate Bus Line

Colored people of Winston-Salem do not have to worry over jim-crow car laws, as they are well equipped with conveyances of their own. Mr. Hosie V. Price, attorney for a motor bus company, informed me that the company operates forty-two buses covering every territory largely populated by colored people. The company employs sixty people, including drivers and office force.

1/18/30

Negroes Operate Bakery

Colored people of Winston-Salem bake their bread in a sanitary plant equally as good as any plant in North Carolina. Under the company's system the bread sold one day is exchanged for fresher bread the next day and the old bread is sold to farmers for feed for stock.

Lawyers Given Recognition

One who has not had the opportunity to visit the court rooms of Winston-Salem would be surprised on entering and finding colored lawyers sitting at the counsel table side by side with others trying a case.

I was given this opportunity Thursday morning when Attorney Fitts, one of the outstanding lawyers of the state, was trying a murder case which was nolle prossed by the judge before it reached the jury. Lawyers have keys to the attorneys' recreation room, and there are no separate seats for white or colored lawyers. They converse on matters of law together.

Colored people in Winston-Salem, which has the largest colored population in the state, own many modern homes.

Baltimore

Civic Improvements Fine

There are but few cities in Dixie that give their colored citizens civic conditions equal to the civic conditions given white people. Colored citizens of Winston-Salem have many first class streets on which to build elaborate homes. Many homes owned by colored people of Winston-Salem surpass the home of Negroes in other states in Dixie.

Property - 1930

Oklahoma

WOMAN TOLD OIL FORTUNE IS HERS

Called

Mrs. Henry Wallace Off To Tulsa to Claim Property

2-14-30

Kansas City, Mo.

Word has been received by Mrs. Mary Harris Wallace, 2928 Jarboe street, that she has won a fortune of six and one half million dollars as her share of a ten-year legal battle with the Texas Oil company in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Wallace learned of her wealth, she says, in a long distance telephone conversation with her attorneys in Tulsa. The total amount won from the oil company was 13 millions of dollars, but by a contract, one-half of the sum went to the law firm which handled the case through the long fight.

From 200-Acre Farm

The wealth comes directly from a 200-acre farm just north of Tulsa, Okla., which was left to Mrs. Wallace by her grandmother, Mrs. Nancy Brown, who was three-fourths Indian.

According to Mrs. Wallace, the Texas company has been drilling on the farm for the past nineteen years and in that time has paid over no purchase price and no royalties. The sum which she receives now is what the court judged she should have been entitled to over all the years.

Oil is still being pumped from wells on the land and Mrs. Wallace is leaving this morning for Tulsa to take over title to her farm and arrange for payment of royalties.

Here Since 1919

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace have lived in Kansas City since 1919. She was born in Scooba, Mississippi and lived a while in Oklahoma before coming to Kansas City.

Mr. Wallace has been in the hauling business and has a Dodge truck.

What will they do after they make their business trip to Tulsa and actually get hold of the six and a half millions?

Well, when you ask them that, neither Mr. or Mrs. Wallace has much to say. They are not bragging folk and they are not anxious to get away from their friends.

They haven't said a word about buying a car, although they probably will buy one later on. Just now they are keeping quiet and hoping people will let them alone with the job of getting used to six and a half million dollars.

Property -1930

Texas.

Cemetery for Negroes Costs $50,000

Morning News

The chapel and one of the wooded drives at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, negro burial park just opened by a group of Dallas business men headed by John B. Muse, are pictured above. The chapel, of painted brick, is fitted with altar, pews and piano.

The building cost $9,500, being part of the $50,000 improvement program in progress. The cemetery, which is being developed to rank with white cemeteries in beauty, is reached by going out Second avenue along the Seagoville road past the Roosevelt Addition, and then going straight south at Elam. The tract is a mile and a half south of Elam.

The Lincoln Memorial Association, in charge of the project, is made up of C. W. Hobson, J. L. Burgess, O. D. Brundidge, Sam A. Leake, Frank F. Bell, M. N. Chrestman, W. B. Fraser, W. A. Hudson, M. M. McGinnis, W. F. Long, A. H. Wolff, John R. Slaughter and John B. Muse, with Mr. Muse in active charge.

The Lincoln Memorial Park consists of ninety acres, most of it heavily wooded, of which forty-one acres have been developed and divided into 3,200 lots. Roads have been cut and graveled, underbrush cleared out and a chapel for use by negroes either for funerals or religious services, without charge, constructed at a cost of $9,500. Permission will be given negro religious bodies to use the chapel when it is not in use for a funeral, Mr. Muse said.

The burial park is said to be the finest in the South for negroes. From one to six trees are found on 90 per cent of the lots, the developers saving all the trees possible. A large number of workmen have been kept busy on the tract for some time making the improvements. A feature of the park is the circular plots designed for use by fraternal organizations. An insurance plan protects the buyer of a lot should he die before completing payment, the remaining amount being canceled by the association. Perpetual care is guaranteed.

Virginia

Property—1930

SAYS CITY HAS NOT IMPROVED A SINGLE BLOCK

Journal and Guide

Dr. J. W. Pierce Asserts People Pay Taxes On $600,000 Property

9-6-30

Norfolk, Va.

SUFFOLK, Va.—Deploring the inequality of city appropriations for street repairs in the colored and white residential sections of the city, Dr. J. W. Pierce, in a letter to the Suffolk News-Herald, said:

"At the meeting of the city council last Thursday evening it was disclosed through your paper that of the $130,000 bond issue for public improvement for the year 1930, there was $113,000 thereabout available for the proposed improvement. The observation was unique and singular that not one cent has been appropriated for any kind of street or civic improvement on the streets occupied by the colored people.

"The colored people pay taxes on around about $600,000 worth of taxable property within the city limits, and not one thought is shown to take them in part at least out of the mud, dirt, and dust where they are forced to live.

"It is not our purpose or desire to begrudge the benefits our white friends and neighbors derive from this issue of $130,000. We would be less than honest christian men and women to be conniving and rob others of what they get as a favor from the public treasury. But we do feel and claim that in the distribution of public money for which the whole citizenry is responsible, there should be an appreciable allocation of such money to make living conditions more tolerable, evidencing the fact that authority to appropriate funds for public and civic needs should be consistently adhered to in serving the entire community.

"My work as a physician carries me over every street in the city and into every nook and corner. My observation discloses the pitiable fact that it is not a wonder why so many Negroes die, but wonder how so many live even to the prime of life.

Have our city fathers stopped to think that out of the 15 miles or more of improved streets in our city, there is practically only one block that is improved among per se? I realize that certain streets where colored people live have been improved, but how and why was this undertaken? It does not require a sage to look into this.

Such streets as Colloden, John Avenue, Madison and County Streets have been hard-surfaced, but why? The answer here is clear. Business progress demanded it, and the few colored residents in these streets incidentally benefitted. But how about the streets of the colored people absolutely residential? Such streets as Smith, Wellon, Wilson, Lee—where the colored school is located—Tynes, Church, Mahan, Milner, Beach, Bute and the avenues? These streets teem with misery and depress the spirit of decent men and women for quasi-wholesome living.